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AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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APRIL FIELD TRIP

On May 11, 1928, while on a trip with the late Mrs. Amelia S. Allen to Cedar Mountains I first became acquainted with Phainopepla, **Phainopepla nitrens lepida,** a species of the lower Sonoran Zone. (See The Gull, May 1948.) At that time the late Mr. Charles A. Bryant was on a trip to Mexico to see this species. When he returned he would not believe that the Phainopepla could be seen so close to home, so on May 30th another visit was made to the McCoy Ranch in the Arroyo Mocho, south of Livermore. We saw not only the species but found one nest, and another in the course of construction with the male bird apparently doing most of the work. This was a very fruitful trip not alone from the standpoint of Phainopepla but of many other interesting species, including many that were nesting. We decided to plan an Audubon trip to this place, so on May 26, 1929, our first trip was taken and it was one long to be remembered—66 species. (See The Gull, June 1929.) The Phainopepla never again visited Mr. McCoy's property, but this species was found about two miles from the ranch; also this year they were found several miles further on.

April 24, 1949 was very warm and pleasant, a good day for birding. A high fog began to roll in at luncheon time and a gentle breeze came up. While the country was still green and beautiful with large patches of California poppies we were told that there had been only twelve inches of rain and not a drop during the month of April. Birds seemed few in comparison with other years and no nests were found although several birds were seen carrying nesting material.

After luncheon the trip was continued about eight miles up the road in search of the Phainopepla which is always the attraction on this trip. We finally stopped at the Rancho Reposo, owned by Mr. Hugh S. Walker, where we found Phainopeplas and they showed themselves so that those present had a chance to see them well. Some of the party walked down the canyon to Cedar Brook thereby adding a few species not seen before.

The trip, under the very able leadership of Mr. Harry Adamson, was the twelfth taken to this ranch, six in the month of April and six in May. The total number of species seen is 110 of which 97 were found in April and 86 in May. Records for April include the following species not seen in May: Mallard, Sharp-skinned Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Band-tailed Pigeon, Poor-will, Rufous Hummingbird, Tree Swallow, Crested Jay, Raven, Road-runner, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Pipit, Orange-crowned, Myrtle, Audubon and MacGillivary Warblers, Yellow-throat, Pine Siskin, Savannah, Gambel, Golden-crowned and Lincoln Sparrows.

Those seen in May and not recorded in April are: Anthony Green Heron, Horned Owl, Nighthawk, White-throated Swift, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Bank Swallow, Purple Martin, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Cowbird and Western Tanager.

The Assocation is very appreciative of the privilege which Mrs. McCoy always grants us to visit her ranch and for the kind and loving welcome we receive from her and her son.

Birds seen at McCoy Ranch: — 33 species:

Cooper Hawk	Cliff Swallow	Meadowlark
Red-tailed Hawk	California Jay	Bullock Oriole
Sparrow Hawk	Yellow-billed Magpie	Brewer Blackbird
Quail	Titmouse	Black-headed Grosbeak
Killdeer	House Wren	Lazuli Bunting
Mourning Dove	Mockingbird	House Finch
Burrowing Owl	Thrasher	Pine Siskin
Anna Hummingbird	Robin	Green-backed Goldfnch
Red-Shafted Flicker	Long-tailed Chat	Brown Towhee
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Pileolated Warbler	Savannah Sparrow
Black Phoebe	English Sparrow	Lark Sparrow

Additional 22 Species seen at Reposo Rancho and vicinity:

Turkey Vulture	Violet-green Swallow	Cassin Vireo
Golden Eagle	Crested Jay	Warbling Vireo
Prairie Falcon	Slender-billed Nuthatch	Audubon Warbler
California Woodpecker	Western Bluebird	MacGillivary Warbler
Willow Woodpecker	Gnatcatcher	Redwing Blackbird
Nuttall Woodpecker	Phainopepla	Chipping Sparrow
Western Kingbird	Shrike	Gambel Sparrow
		Golden-crowned Sparrow

Forty members and guests enjoyed this day.

Laura A. Stephens, Historian

Those attending: Mr. & Mrs. Adamson, Cogswell, Curtis, Leinback, Nielsen, Mrs. Allen Berry, Dunlap, Hill, Logan, Preston, Richardson, Stephens, Stone, Stowell, White; Misses: Burroughs, Hazen, Nordyke, Papina, Clelia & Camilla Paroni, Peterson, Price, Roscoe, Sterne, Underwood, Watkins, Young; Messrs: Bailey, Bennett, Trilling Jr., Webb, and several guests.

Laura A. Stephens, Historian

MAY FIELD TRIP

On Sunday, May 18, approximately 50 members and guests enjoyed a day of excellent birding in the vicinity of St. Mary's College. A solidly overcast sky made sight identification somewhat more difficult than usual, but did not seem to deter the birds from singing. Nests were found of the black-headed grosbeak and warbling vireo. A crippled varied thrush was captured but was able to fly when released. Lawrence goldfinches were seen at very close range at the Rheem Boulevard triangle. In the afternoon a number of the party birded up the beautifully wooded canyon of Las Trampas Creek. The following sixty-eight species of birds were seen or heard:

Great Blue Heron	California Quail	Allen Hummingbird
Bittern	Killdeer	Hairy Woodpecker
Turkey Vulture	Spotted Sandpiper	Downy Woodpecker
Cooper Hawk	Mourning Dove	Ash-throated Flycatcher
Red-tailed Hawk	Horned Owl	Black Phoebe
Sparrow Hawk	Anna Hummingbird	Western Flycatcher

Western Wood Pewee
Violet-green Swallow
Rough-winged Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Steller Jay
California Jay
Plain Titmouse
Bush-tit
White-breasted Nuthatch
Wren-tit
House Wren
Bewick Wren
California Thrasher
Robin
Varied Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Russet-backed Thrush
Western Bluebird
Western Gnatcatcher
Solitary Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Hutton Vireo
Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Macgillivary Warbler
Long-tailed Chat
Pileolated Warbler
English Sparrow
Western Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
Bullock Oriole
Brewer Blackbird
Western Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak
Lazuli Bunting
California Purple Finch
House Finch
Pine Siskin
Common Goldfinch
Green-backed Goldfinch
Lawrence Goldfinch
Spotted Towhee
Brown Towhee
Lark Sparrow
Bell Sparrow
Oregon Junco
Chipping Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Song Sparrow

A. Laurence Curl, Leader and Historian

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following: from San Francisco: Mr. Walter B. Cook, Mrs. Nellie C. Dorn, Mrs. Frank B. Drake, Mr. Floyd S. Judah, Mrs. Lyman Miller, Mr. Charles Hall Page, Jr., Mrs. Charles H. Smith, Mr. William Young; from Oakland: Mr. Larry E. Chapman, Dr. Ina Gourley, Dr. & Mrs. Harold A. Morse; from Piedmont: Miss M. Helen Catlin; from Berkeley: Mrs. Andrew Allan, Mrs. W. F. Harrison, Mr. Donald Palmer, Miss Grace Pinkerton, Miss Margaret S. Smth, Miss Rose Whinnery; from Alameda: Mr Henry B. Tiedmann; from San Rafael: Mr. F. Somers Peterson; from Redwood City: Mrs. Lionel B. King; from Santa Barbara: Miss Pearl Chase, Mr. Perry R. E. Marshall; from Yosemite National Park: Mr. Walter J. Fitzpatrick.

OBSERVATIONS

Edited by Junea W. Kelly

The following observations have been reported:

4 Black-necked Stilts, April 16, Dumbarton Bridge, Florence Plymell.

2 pair Wood Ducks, Sunol; 1 pair Wood Ducks, First Bridge, Calaveras Dam Road, and Western Kingbirds; two male Bullock Orioles, Arroyo Del Valle, April 6, Edith Nelson.

Lawrence Goldfinches, Milvia St., Berkeley, March 5; Poor-will, Tiburon, April 10, A. Laurence Curl.

24 Knots, Bay Farm Island, April 17; two Black-headed Grosbeaks, Ross, April 19, Junea W. Kelly.

Warbling Vireo, April 4; Russet-backed Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, April 21, in garden, 662 Santa Rosa Ave., Berkeley, Russell H. Pray.

1 White-tailed Kite, three miles south of Healdsburg; one pair courting, three miles north of Healdsburg in the vicinity of Lytton Springs,April 9; one Kite, Ignacio, April 15, Mary. L. Courtright.

2 Golden-er Sparrows, El Sobrante, Contra Costa Co., May 1, Walter W. Bradley.

1 Golden Plover, Bay Farm Island, May 6, Robert W. Storer. The Golden Plover was seen by others May 7-8-9. (See The Gull, June 1938 for record of this species Bay Farm Island May 7 and 8.)

1 Spotted Sandpiper Bay Farm Island, May 3, 25 Ruddy Turnstones May 7, Seth Bailey.

1 Northern Phalarope, Bay Farm Island, April 23, Brighton C. Cain.

70 Knots, Bay Farm Island, April 23, Wade Fox.

Red and Northern Phalaropes, females in breeding plumage, KRE pool, Berkeley, May 20 and 21, Mrs. Vee Curts.

75 Knots, May 5; 6 Red Phalaropes May 17 Bay Farm Island. The species was seen again May 18 and 19. Olive-sided Flycatcher, Garber Park, Berkeley, April 21; Russet-backed Thrush, Ross, April 30; Western Tanager, Alameda, May 5; Hooded Oriole feeding young in nest Green Valley, Solano Co., May 18, Junea W. Kelley.

JUNE MEETING

The 381st meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held on June 9th at the Oakland Public Museum, Lake Merritt, Oak and 14th Sts. The business meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. A ballot regarding the change of name of the Association will be taken.

The program, starting at 8 p.m., will be a DOUBLE FEATURE. Mr. Melvin Johansen, Preparator at the Snow Museum, will show his all-color motion picture starring our Western bird artist, Mr. Harry Adamson. The film was made in Alturas, Gridley, and Willows, and shows the artist at work among the waterfowl. Mr. Paul Covel, Ranger-Naturalist at Lakeside Park, will show a film entitled "Lake Merritt Waterfowl Refuge", and give us some information about the results of banding at the Refuge, together with some facts regarding the conditions at Lake Merritt and the plans for the future.

This program will be entertaining and informative. Come and bring your friends. No-host dinner at Zerikotes, Lake Merritt, at six p.m.

—Laurel Reynolds,
Program Chairman

JUNE FIELD TRIP

The June trip will be taken to Ross, Marin County, on Sunday, June 12. Take the Greyhound bus on 7th St., between Mission and Market Sts., San Francisco, at 7:55 a.m. Allow ample time to buy tickets. Meet at Ross Fire House at 9:00 a.m. The area around Lakes Phoenix and Lagunitas will be visited. This is fine hiking country as well as good birding territory. George T. Kilham, leader. Bring lunch, binoculars and interested friends.

SPECIAL FIELD TRIP

On Saturday, June 25, to Diamond Park and Canyon, Oakland. Meet at Diamond Park, on Fruitvale Ave., two blocks north (toward hills) of MacArthur Boulevard, at 8:30 a.m. From San Francisco take 7:45 a.m., "N" Key bus from the Bridge Terminal to Fruitvale Ave., and MacArthur Boulevard. Bring binoculars and interested friends also lunch if birding in the afternoon too.

—A. J. Bennett,
Chairman, Field Trip Committee

Mrs. Katie Goldberger,
died April 28, 1949
We extend our sympathy to her family.

Audubon Association of the Pacific
Organized January 25, 1917
For the Study and the Protection of Birds
Branch of National Audubon Society

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.